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SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Am I to take it as your order, Sir, because you should not say I went of my own accord?"

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"You are leaving the Chamber under my instructions."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Under your orders?"

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"Yes, under my orders."

The hon. Member, Sri S. B. Adityan, then withdrew.

IV.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. CHAIRMAN.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"I have to announce to the House that I have received a Message, dated 29th July 1952, from the Hon. the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1952), as passed by the Assembly on the 29th July 1952, and signed by him for the recommendations of the Council, with a certificate that this is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 199 of the Constitution of India."

(2) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"I have also to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated 18th July 1952, from the Governor of Madras:—

'In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3) of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1952.'

V.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1952 (L.A. BILL NO. 7 OF 1952), AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 29TH JULY 1952.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Sir, I move—

'That the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1952), as passed by the Legislative Assembly and transmitted to the Council be taken into consideration.'

"Sir, this House discussed the Budget when it was introduced and subsequent to that various Demands have been debated and voted upon in the Legislative Assembly. After the various Grants have been made, the Appropriation Bill under Article 204 of the Constitution has been passed by the Legislative Assembly and transmitted to this House for consideration. On this occasion, I am sure, this House will again review the entire Governmental administration and, as far as I am concerned, in this House I am inclined to hear rather than to talk and therefore I will reserve whatever I have got to say for my reply. I eagerly await, Sir, the

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various suggestions and criticisms which will be made by the hon. Members in this House."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"Motion moved—

'That the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1952), as passed by the Legislative Assembly and transmitted to the Council be taken into consideration.'"

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Mr. Chariman, Sir, the discussion which we are having to-day on this Appropriation Bill is rather a post-mortem examination. The whole Budget has been discussed and voted upon in the other House. It has come to this House with the last word having been said in the other House. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House has got very little powers. We can only offer criticism and the criticisms which we offer to-day may not be taken into consideration by the Council of Ministers because it would be rather too late. Anyhow this House has got the small concession of once more going through a discussion on a matter which has already been decided by the other House.

"Sir, I congratulate the Government and this State for having survived the vote in the other House on the policy of Prohibition. Even the other day, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I submitted that I felt very keenly on the subject of Prohibition. There is an impression abroad that the various items of the constructive programme which had been placed before the country by the Father of the Nation have been only mere weapons to be used against the foreigners to achieve independence. It is a wrong notion. Sir, these various items of the constructive programme were placed before the country by that great man, Mahatma Gandhi, not only for the purpose of being used as weapons against foreign imperialists but also as a means of reviving the rural parts of this country and creating a good nation. One of the main items of the constructive programme was the question of Prohibition. I am glad that this State which gave a lead to the remaining parts of the country in 1937 and which has the honour of having a State-wide policy of Prohibition, is now able to carry on its policy of Prohibition after having survived the great attack which had been made on that policy.

"But, Sir, can we feel satisfied by carrying out only one item of the Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi? Mahatma Gandhi had placed a number of items in his Constructive Programme for us to carry out. Is it not a matter of shame for all of us that, so soon after the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi, we have forgotten all his teachings and that we have been carrying on the administration of the country as if we are the inheritors of the tradition of the foreign rulers who were ruling us for the last two hundred years? I must confess, Sir, that the Budget which has been passed by the other House and the Appropriation Bill which has been brought before this House for discussion contain nothing but the same policy which had been followed by the British 5 p.m.

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imperialists in this country against the will of the people. It is a replica of the policy pursued by the foreigners in our country. With great respect, I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister, 'is there anything of the Gandhian programme in the Budget?' It is a tragedy that Rajaji has come again to lead this State. He has gained a great reputation and name in this country. We used to revere that Rajaji who had risked everything for the Gandhian programme. It is a sad disappointment to see the same Rajaji coming, not to carry out the programme of Mahatma Gandhi whose greatest disciple he was, but to carry on the administration of the country exactly on the lines of the British imperial rule. It is one of the tragedies which this country

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"Is the hon. Member speaking on the Appropriation Bill?"

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—"Sir, we can criticize the administration of the State on this occasion from top to bottom. That has been the practice here and that is allowed in the Constitution also. If I am wrong, I will immediately sit down and obey your ruling, Sir.

"The question before us is, whether the Government have made a single change in the machinery of administration which we have inherited from our foreign rulers? A great portion of the revenue which we collect from the millions of poor people of our country is spent on payment of salaries to high officials. The other day, Sir, our great leader, Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, gave instances and quoted figures to show that this administration is a top-heavy administration. I do not know why this Ministry fight shy of reducing this expenditure on a top-heavy administration. In this connexion, I must refer to the declaration made in the other House by our Chief Minister that he would not touch the Revenue Board. The Revenue Board has no reason to exist. It exists merely for the purpose of checking and counter-checking and blocking progress. Are there not States where there are no Revenue Boards? I ask, Sir, whether the heavens have fallen in those States where there are no Revenue Boards. There are Secretaries in charge of departments and they can manage things. Sir, I can quote a number of instances to show that this administration is a top-heavy administration. We have a Registrar of Co-operative Societies and we have also got a Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies. We have got a Deputy Registrar and a Sub-Registrar. We have got a Personal Assistant and an Extra Personal Assistant to help the Personal Assistant. If the Government carefully examine the different departments, they will be able to cut down expenditure to a great extent. I do not want to retrench Government servants at the lower rungs. Many of the big posts are unnecessary for carrying on the administration of the State. After the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, there is no need for Sub-Collectors and Revenue Divisional

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Officers. The other day, my Friend Mr. Krishnamoorthi told the House how the money provided for education is spent mostly on the inspectorate and not for giving education to the people. What is the use of having Divisional Inspectors of Schools? Therefore, my complaint is that Government have not made any real or earnest attempt to effect retrenchment, before they thought of imposing further taxes. Is it not the duty of the Government to see that expenditure on the administration is cut down to the minimum possible? (Interruption by the Hon. the Chief Minister.) A question is put whether I will recommend reduction in the Judicial department. If after examination by an intelligent person like the Hon. the Chief Minister”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ I put the question only to make out this point, that in anything which you (pointing to Mr. M. P. Govinda Menon) know you will be reasonable and you will be unreasonable about things that you do not know.”

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—“ The Hon. the Chief Minister says that I am a legal practitioner and I know something about the Judicial department and that I do not know anything about other departments. With great respect to Rajaji, I say that I know something about other departments also. I move among the people. I know what the officers of the different departments are doing. Under the leadership of such a person as Rajaji, we had been in the past crying hoarse for the abolition of the Board of Revenue and for effecting retrenchment in Government departments”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ Sir, on a question of fact, even in the old days when the senior Indian Collectors wanted the Board of Revenue to be abolished. I did not agree with them and I never expressed the opinion that is now attributed to me.”

* SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON:—“ That was the view of the great national organization of which we were all Members, and I did not mean that Rajaji held such an opinion. I submit, Sir, that it is the duty of the Government to appoint an expert committee or a sub-committee of the Cabinet including the Hon. the Chief Minister to go into this question of effecting retrenchment in Government departments before they think of imposing new taxes. I ask the Government whether they have made an earnest attempt to cut down expenditure in the Government departments before they brought forward taxation measures? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel very much disappointed because I had great expectations when Rajaji assumed office—I have never had any such expectations from the previous Congress Ministry and, in fact, I have never even cared to make criticisms when the previous Ministry was in office—that something good will be done. Great hopes were aroused in the minds of the people also because a great leader who

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had occupied high posts had taken charge of the administration of the State. But what do we find after his coming? Old departments continue to exist. I request the Hon. the Chief Minister to withdraw all the Taxation Bills magnanimously excepting the proposal to increase the levy on petrol and foreign liquor. All other proposals must be magnanimously withdrawn by the Hon. the Chief Minister so that the burden of taxation on the people may not be increased, because all these taxes will be an additional burden. I am not saying these things in anger, but only with a view to see that something good is done to the people.

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“ Sir, you have heard the story of Rip Van Winkle. He had a sleep which lasted for some years and when he woke up from his sleep he found that the entire country of America had changed and there was independence and there was the Republic of America established during the period when he was asleep. Suppose in our country a Rip Van Winkle had gone to sleep before the 15th August 1947 and woke up in 1952 and goes to the villages in this State what would he find? Would he find any change in the outlook of the people, in the method of living of the people, of the millions of people in our villages? If one goes to the villages one would see that the people have not realized what independence is. You and I may be enjoying independence; we know we have got rid of foreign rule in this country. But, in the villages do the people enjoy any freedom on account of the advent of independence in the country? Not at all, Sir. They are not only not enjoying the fruits of independence—I was even severely criticized by an Hon. Minister of the last Government when I gave expression to it—they say that they are much worse off than they were during the days of the British rule. I can say with all the emphasis at my command that they are subject to the tyranny of the Police officers, they undergo a lot of suffering at the hands of the petty officials, corruption has increased and no good is done to them while, on the other hand, their condition has become pitiable. Is this a thing which one can be proud of? I should like to ask the Government: ‘What have you done for them in the Budget? What are the steps that have been taken in pursuit of a decentralised policy which Mahatmaji had been pleading for, for the last so many years?’ You are not following the policy which you had been advocating during the period of the freedom struggle and you have not carried out the promises you gave to the millions of people in this country. The result of all this is that they do not see what is real freedom in their villages. The Hon. the Chief Minister will be angry when I mention the Police. I am not an anti-Police man; on the other hand, we want the Police and we want the armed Police and the Military forces. We cannot practise the principle of non-violence in all cases; we are all frail human beings and are likely to commit mistakes. While protecting the people, is it not our duty to see that the villagers are not persecuted and troubled by the petty officials? I submit to the Hon. the Chief Minister that it is a reflection upon the Government if a poor man is beaten by a police constable. In self-interest

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at least is it not the duty of the Government to save these people from the tyranny of the petty officials? The Government must be carried on in the interests of the people and it will be appreciated by the people if they are able to look up to the Government for their protection and relief.

“ Now, Sir, a word about my district of Malabar. Everybody knows that it is deficit in the matter of food and we welcome derationing in that district. I wish to assure the Hon. the Chief Minister that, though the Congressmen in Malabar may or may not welcome it, my leader Sri Kelappan and I will support it and do propaganda for it and as soon as he returns from Delhi, we will undertake propaganda in favour of decontrol.

“ Malabar must be made a self-sufficient district in the matter of food and it cannot be allowed to remain a deficit district for ever. Friends from the Tamilnad and Andhra area might turn round and say, ‘ We are supplying you food ’ but, I say that in doing so they are only atoning for the sins they have been committing for generations. They have neglected this district in the matter of irrigation. The Hon. the Chief Minister was unkind enough to say that Malabar has plenty of rains. But of what use are the rains? They go into the Arabian sea and this year the monsoons have failed. Even if there is good rain, what is the use if the water cannot be harnessed for cultivation? There had been some rains in these parts but I am wondering if the Hon. Chief Minister’s prayers for rains stops with the Western Ghats. I am sorry to say that he has not much of a soft corner in his heart for the people of poor Malabar. In regard to making the district self-sufficient, they have started the Malampuzha scheme. I do not know whom I am to thank for the sanction of Rs. 1 crore for the scheme. But the real problem of the district cannot be solved by big schemes like this but it could be solved only by means of minor irrigation schemes of which we do not have any in my district. I indeed felt envious when hon. Members mentioned that they had such schemes functioning in their districts. You know the topography of the district; you cannot walk a furlong without ascending a hill and any amount that may be spent in one part may not be of use to the other parts and therefore small irrigation works should be started and they should be scattered throughout the district. I see when I travel from Podanur to Olavakkode, a string of electric lights, a thing which is unknown in my district of Malabar. All these things obtain in plenty in the Tamil districts but poor Malabar is being neglected. I suggest that an expert committee should be set up to go into the question of making Malabar self-sufficient in the matter of food. The Wynaad colonization scheme has been a success; the lands have been cleared of malaria and they have been made healthy. More such colonisation schemes must be tried in that district and minor irrigation works should be introduced. They will do a lot of benefit to the people.

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“Regarding the Malabar Tenancy Act, I am glad the Government are taking up the matter and giving a quietus to the agitation against it and I am sure that in doing so they will be able to bring in a measure which will be acceptable to all parties.

“I know, Sir, that in regard to this Appropriation Bill, we have no right to stand in its way. But let me say that this is a ‘Misappropriation Bill’ and not an Appropriation Bill because it has taken money from the poor villagers to help the rich people and the rich officers of Government and so, I think this had better be termed as ‘Misappropriation Bill.’”

* SRI S. NARASAPPAYYA:—“Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon. the Finance Minister and in doing so, I may be permitted to make a few observations and certain suggestions on the Bill before the House. The Budget discussion has continued over a number of days but I had no opportunity of speaking then and so, I may be pardoned if my observations and suggestions are general rather than restricted to the Bill under discussion by the House.

“Now, whenever the Government state they have no funds for any particular activity or the Government refuse to sanction any proposal, the fashion seems to be to have a fling at Prohibition and to suggest that it must be scrapped and a lot of money will automatically flow. But I am surprised how such observations can come from Gentlemen opposite who claim to be champions of the poor. The Prohibition question can be looked at from two angles. It can be looked at from the point of view of taxation and it can also be looked at from the moral and ethical point of view and the point of view of the well-being of the community. Let us look at it from the point of view of taxation. It is accepted on all hands that any taxation should only be levied upon people who would be in a position to pay it, in a position to bear the weight of the taxation; it is the rich that are to be taxed and not the very poor. Even if we take the taxation measures that have been brought before the House for its approval, they have been opposed on the ground that they will hit the poor. In the case of the levy of surcharge on land revenue, it is opposed on the ground that the poor farmers will be hit, forgetting all the time that it is only the farmer paying above Rs. 50 by way of assessment that is sought to be taxed. Members from the Opposition said that it will hit the poor farmers very hard and therefore, it must not be levied. In every taxation measure it is the poor people that will be hit and, therefore, it is suggested that they should not be taxed. They fail to see who will pay if Prohibition is scrapped; if Prohibition is scrapped and the excise revenue comes into being, it will be the very poor, the poorest of the poor that will be paying it, because 90 per cent of the people that drink are the poor illiterate labourers, the agricultural labourer or the factory or mill worker, and it is only from their money that the revenue under excise will be derived. It comes only from the wages of

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the poor cooly or the labourer from his earnings of a Rupee or Rs. 1-8-0; it is he that goes to the tavern and spends the money on drink instead of buying the food necessary for his hungry children at home. Instead of purchasing the necessaries of life for the poor man's family and instead of buying the articles of food for the hungry children and the waiting wife, is it just that his earnings should go into the coffers of the State in the shape of revenue from drink?

“ Then, Sir, it is also said that Prohibition is a failure. The question to be considered is whether the tax on drink is a proper tax and whether it is only the rich that are taxed or the poorest of the poor that are taxed. If the poorest of the poor—the labourers and illiterate people—are taxed for drinking, certainly Prohibition should be retained. Let it be viewed from the ethical or moral standard also. As far as I know, no religion in India sanctions drink as good for the people. Every religion says that drink is bad and certainly no person would like that anybody else should drink. Nobody says that drink is good and nobody would like his own son or brother to drink. Therefore, even from the moral or ethical point of view, drink is bad and it is an evil. It is a habit-forming vice. Is it proper for the Government—a Welfare State—to open toddy taverns in every village and make toddy an attractive drink for the poor people? Do you want the poor people to spend four or six annas out of their hard-earned money and thus swell the coffers of the State? Do you want to lay roads or build hospitals out of this money collected from the poor labourers? Therefore, to say that Prohibition must be scrapped and the money required by the Government should be met from the excise revenue is not proper either from the ethical or moral point of view. 5-20
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“ Another argument that is advanced in favour of scrapping Prohibition is that it is not properly enforced and that the Prohibition law has been broken and every cottage is a distillery, with the result that more persons drink now. These are wild allegations which are not based on statistics. If we go to the village—we are not strangers and we are in close touch with the villagers—we will see that so many homes of poor people are much happier to-day than they were before. Therefore, it is wrong to say that illicit distillation has become a cottage industry. If the Prohibition law is not enforced effectively, then it is another matter. Certainly it must be enforced still more effectively.

“ Then, I come to retrenchment. Our revered leader and the Hon. the Chief Minister has been trying his level best to see whether any retrenchment is possible. When a question on retrenchment was raised on a previous occasion, he wanted us to put forth our suggestions. Retrenchment is a specialist's job. After all, we are lay persons. Unfortunately it so happens that the suggestion for retrenchment must come from the very department which would be affected by retrenchment. Of course, most of the Hon. Ministers—except one or two—are strangers to

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administration and they have got to depend on the advice of the very department which is sought to be retrenched and there the difficulty comes in. I hope the Hon. Chief Minister will look into the matter.

"Now, I would suggest that the Government should examine the question whether the posts which have been created after 1946 and appointments to which were not made through the Public Service Commission are necessary. Sir, there is a feeling—it is no use covering up that feeling—that most of those posts have been created for the purpose of giving jobs to persons who were favourably disposed with the Ministers of the previous Government. Let me not be misunderstood. I am not, for a moment, saying that any one of those posts are unnecessary or any of those posts had been specially created for the purpose of giving jobs. I have just expressed what the people feel about the matter. I humbly request the Hon. Minister for Finance and the Hon. Chief Minister to examine the question, whether those posts are necessary or they could be retrenched.

"Now, I come to the Regional Transport Officers. The powers now exercised by these officers were formerly exercised by the Police officers. Now, in each district, there is one District Superintendent of Police, a Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police, a number of Deputy Superintendents of Police, Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. These officers can very well be entrusted with the work now assigned to these Regional Transport Officers, and their posts may be abolished. By this, the Government can save some money. This is a matter which must be looked into by the Government. In this connection, I suggest that this work may be entrusted either to the Deputy Superintendent of Police or the Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police in each district.

"Now, I should like to refer to the staff employed for enforcing the labour laws now on the Statute Book. The persons who are affected by the infringement of these laws are the employees. The Government know that to-day labour is quite strong and well-organised and they are able to make their influence felt by the employers. If an employer infringes any of these laws and the employee is affected, there is the labour union to take up the matter with the Government. There is no need for Inspectors, Supervisors and Assistant Inspectors in every district to carry out these laws. Whether these Officers actually go round every factory and find out the facts, is a different matter. Sometimes, this matter of enforcing these laws is carried to a ridiculous length. In this connection, I want to point out one or two cases. In factories, workers between 14 and 18 years are expected to wear a badge provided by the factory owners. While they are at work, due to some reason or other, they may not actually wear the badges on their chest or in a conspicuous place. Sometimes, the factory owner is prosecuted for the fault of the workers in not wearing the badges in the place where they are expected to be displayed.

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“ Take, for example, the case of a bus driver. He is expected to wear a cap and a badge. If he is found without the cap, or the badge and the bus-owner who is sitting hundreds of miles away, is prosecuted, how ridiculous it would look. Thus, these Inspectors and Supervisors make out cases on flimsy charges and prosecute employers. Their action creates more ill-will and more feelings of enmity between the employer and the employees. The object of these labour laws is defeated as such prosecutions do not create good relations between the employer and the employees. There has been an unnecessary interference on the part of these officers in ordinary matters. Therefore, I feel that the staff employed for enforcing labour laws are not necessary. This matter of enforcement can be left to the employee and the Labour Union who, if they have any complaint, could complain to the magistrate or any other authority prescribed for deciding this.

“ I now come to the taxation measures proposed by the Government. Of course, every one of these taxation measures is opposed, except the one which deals with the enhanced tax on petrol. Now I can only speak about the surcharge on land revenue. I am really surprised at the amount of opposition to this proposal. If anyone studies the principles on which land revenue tax is levied, I do not think there is any scope for so much opposition. It is well known that the land tax is imposed, not as a tax on the income of a landholder but on account of the State having certain interest in the land. As the sovereign authority, the State has got a right to have a certain portion of the produce to itself. Just as the tiller of the soil has a share in the produce, just as the land-owner has a share in the produce, so also the State has a share in the produce. In ancient times it was collected in kind. But later on when it was found that it was difficult to collect it in kind, it was computed into money. Now, when the prices have risen by four or five times, is not the State entitled to a share in that? So, Sir, considered from that view-point, the proposed levy of surcharge on land revenue should not be opposed to such an extent, especially when it is proposed to exempt pattadars who are paying a revenue of less than Rs. 50. Our Hon. Chief Minister has proved beyond doubt how the question of taxing the rich is not possible at all since they have been taken hold of by the Central Government. So, it remains for the State Government to tax the other people. And who are they? They are the poor classes. So the question is whether the State Government should tax the poor people, or the poorer people or the poorest people. Therefore, it is proposed to tax only the poor people in preference to the poorer and the poorest people. So, when the State Government has to bring in fresh taxation to run the administration, the opposition to it by the people is not justified.

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“ Sir, I am representing in this Council the Local Authorities Constituency, and so a word on their behalf would not be out of place here. To-day the position of district boards and municipalities is rather unfortunate. Years ago, they were instituted by the then Government, which was a foreign Government, for the

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purpose of giving us training in self-government. All those days are now passed, and to-day we are in an independent India, where the representatives of the people are elected under adult suffrage to the State Assembly and the Parliament at the Centre. When that is the case, so far as district boards and municipalities are concerned, I am really sorry to say there is a sort of mistrust of them. Government do not trust them fully. The result is their powers are so much curtailed and so much hedged in that it is practically impossible for them to do any beneficial or solid work. They have got practically to depend on Government by way of grant in some shape or other for their income. For every item of expenditure, be it maintenance of roads, be it capital expenditure on roads, be it elementary education, be it balancing of a deficit budget, for all these and several other things they have to look up to the Government for help. Their present sources of revenue are very limited. Not only that, for every item of expenditure they have to get the sanction of the Government. The District Board President's powers are so much curtailed that Government have in some cases gone to the extent of saying, 'Do not appoint a single elementary school teacher beyond the sanctioned strength. If you do, you will be surcharged'. In the case of roads, the entire grant, be it for cementing them, be it for capital expenditure, be it for maintenance, has to come from the Government. Not only that. The work has also to be done by the engineering department of the district board which is not under the control of the district board. The popular feeling is that the roads are under the management of the district boards, and therefore, their condition is bad. The district boards are being accused for negligence, while in actual fact, they are in no way responsible for that. Sir, the engineering department was under the control of the district boards till, I think, 1940. During war time, when the Congress rose up against the British Government and when most of the district boards were in the hands of Congressmen, it was felt for purposes of security, that the powers of the district boards should be curtailed. The Highways Department was therefore formed and it took over all the main roads and all the important roads which were under the management of district boards. It may be from a military point of view or from a strategic point of view that the roads had to be taken away from the district boards and placed under the control of the Highways Department. Even the engineering department which used to be subordinate to the district board and under its control, is at present placed under the control of the Government with the result that the district board has lost all control over it. One would have expected a change after 1946. One would have expected a change in the outlook of Government after the dawn of independence. But I am sorry to state there has been no such change. Government do not view district boards with any sort of trust. If the Union Government elected on adult suffrage can successfully shoulder the entire administration of the country and if the State Government elected on adult suffrage can carry on the administration of State, why not the district boards

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and municipalities which are to be elected hereafter by the very persons who elected members to the State Legislature and the Union Parliament be trusted to discharge their functions efficiently? Why should they not be trusted? Even if there is any reason to mistrust them, let the Government have the necessary powers to supersede the local body and take up the entire administration themselves in case the local body misbehaves. Until they misbehave there is no reason not to trust them. Public Health, Communications and Education, all the three should be left completely in the charge of local boards. If the Government feel that it is not advisable to give all the three of them, let them give them fewer departments and allow them to run them. Should they misbehave, let them supersede them and take over the administration. So I appeal to the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. Minister for Local Administration in particular to view this question favourably and give district boards and municipalities more power. Otherwise they will continue to be, as they are to-day, mere laughing-stock of the people.

“ In the case of municipalities, their limit of expenditure is fixed at Rs. 4,500. For works costing more than that sum, the estimates have to go to the Divisional Engineer at Coimbatore, who in his turn scrutinizes them and sends them up to the Chief Engineer and then the approval and sanction of Government has to be obtained. Then tenders are called for, but there is nobody to tender. Why? Because the estimates had been prepared two and a half years ago at the rates prevailing then, and so nobody is prepared to execute the work at the old rates! This is the unfortunate state of affairs in the case of municipalities to-day, with the result that they are not able to do any good or give any benefit or amenities to the citizens. If really district boards and municipalities are not necessary, let them be ended, and let the State Government themselves do all the things necessary, whether it is in the field of Public Health, Communications or Education, through their own officials. After all the State Government are a representative Government, the People's Government, and they can do all the work themselves. To continue the district boards and municipalities in their present condition is to make them the laughing-stock of the people.

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“ Sir, I come from the West Coast from the South Kanara district: Malabar and South Kanara are practically alike as they are situated in the West Coast. I whole-heartedly support every word of my hon. Friend, Mr. Govinda Menon, when he said they are neglected and that there is not a single irrigation project carried out for them. Possibly, from the nature of the terrain it is not possible to have any big irrigation schemes on the West Coast. Of course, the Malampuzha scheme is there. For some time work was stopped there too for want of funds; fortunately, the Union Government came to our rescue and now the scheme is being pushed through and work is going on there at present. Sir, when there is no possibility of having any big irrigation scheme in these

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districts, it is all the more the bounden duty of Government to pay due regard to the construction of minor irrigation works in these districts. There are many such schemes costing ten thousand, fifteen thousand or twenty thousand rupees. If they are carried out, it is quite possible to increase the food production in these districts. So, it is but proper they should be attended to. From South Kanara we have sent 167 minor irrigation schemes to Government and out of them only 23 have been recommended for execution, but they have all been postponed for execution on the ground of want of finance. So, I appeal to the Government that as many minor irrigation schemes as possible may be taken up in South Kanara and Malabar, and these two districts may be treated as a separate entity as far as minor irrigation projects are concerned, for, as I said, there is no scope for major irrigation schemes there.

“ Sir, there is one other important matter connected with irrigation. Apart from the minor irrigation works and apart from the 140 inches of rainfall that we have, which usually not only washes itself into the Arabian Sea but also washes away the fertility of the soil during the three or four months in the year when we have the monsoon, the main source of irrigation is lift irrigation. At the end of the first crop or even for the first crop and for the second and third crops most of these fields depend upon lift irrigation. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that there should be plenty of electricity available for irrigation purposes. In these days of electric pump-sets it is possible to irrigate very easily large areas. Therefore, large schemes of electricity should be introduced in this district. So far as the Malabar district is concerned, I think, electricity from the Pykara system has been brought up to Papinisseri and beyond that it has not been extended. So far as South Kanara district is concerned there is no scheme for electrifying the villages at all at present. Indeed, for the last two years negotiations have been going on between the Mysore and Madras Governments for the supply of electricity from Jog. The Mahatma Gandhi Electric Project in the Jog Falls is a very, very big source of electric energy. In fact, it is on the border of South Kanara. Three or four villages of South Kanara were acquired and handed over to the Mysore Government for the purpose of this project because they were submergible villages. But, the Madras Government did not enter into a contract with the Mysore Government for the supply of electric energy as the Bombay Government did for the supply of electric energy to North Kanara. While the Bombay Government entered into a contract with the Mysore Government or made it a condition that the Mysore Government should supply 6,000 K.Ws. of electric energy in return for certain lands to be given for the purpose of the project, the Madras Government evidently thought at that time that the Mettur and Pykara schemes could be extended right up to South Kanara and that they were not in need of energy from any other State. Therefore, the Madras Government did not bargain or enter into a contract with the Mysore Government. Now finding it impossible to take electric energy to South Kanara either from Mettur or Pykara and that

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South Kanara has only to depend upon electricity from Jog, negotiations have been going on for the last two years with the Mysore Government. Somehow, it is very disappointing for us in South Kanara to see that these negotiations are not progressing. We do not know what is the reason. Time and again, we approached the Madras Government, the Ministers of the Madras Government—both past and present—and the Mysore Ministers, both past and present also, but every time we are being told that everything possible will be done but nothing moves. Sir, I appeal to the Hon. the Chief Minister and to the Hon. Minister in charge of Electricity to look into this matter and see that South Kanara is supplied with electric energy so that our industries and agriculture may get the benefit of this electricity. To-day, the position is that even in Mangalore, the headquarters of the district, it is impossible for the company which supplies electricity, to supply lighting even for a single house more. In these circumstances, Sir, electricity is absolutely necessary and I appeal to the Government once again to see that an immediate agreement is entered into with the Mysore Government and South Kanara is enabled to get its supply of electric energy from the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Scheme is the Jog Falls.

“ Sir, before I sit down, I want to mention one other point in regard to which also, as I said previously, Malabar and South Kanara are on a par with each other. In both districts we have a rainfall of about 140 inches and there are a number of streams which require to be bridged. At least for four or five months in the year these streams will be unfordable. Therefore, roads and bridges require special attention in these districts of Malabar and South Kanara. Due to the heavy rainfall the roads get inundated and are completely submerged under water. Unless they are concreted or shell-creted by some ordinary method, it is impossible to maintain them properly both in Malabar and South Kanara. In these circumstances, Sir, I request that the Government may kindly be pleased to issue special directions, so far as the Malabar and South Kanara districts are concerned, regarding the maintenance of these roads and the necessity of putting up more bridges. If bridges are very costly, let the Government at least put up more causeways. The real difficulty in crossing these streams is there only for about two months in the year and, if we have these causeways which are less costly than the bridges, the streams would be uncrossable only for about 15 to 20 days in a year. During the rest of the year vehicular traffic could conveniently take these roads. There are villages which are even ten or fifteen miles from the nearest town and sometimes for three or four months they are completely cut off from the towns. If there should be a serious maternity case or any other equally serious case, the nearest hospital or dispensary being about 10 miles away, the patient would simply have to be carried as the roads would be unfit for any vehicles. I again request that more attention may kindly be given to South Kanara and Malabar so far as the maintenance of roads and putting up of bridges are concerned. This is all that I have to say so far

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as the Budget and the present Appropriation Bill are concerned and I fully support the Hon. the Finance Minister and say that this Appropriation Bill should be passed."

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR:—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill under consideration. The Budget as presented to this House has been voted by the Legislative Assembly and the taxation proposals will be taken up separately. I want to refer to the taxation proposals because the levy of new taxes seems to be an annual affair. I have been going through Chingleput and North Arcot districts very frequently and I must say that the agriculturists, wherever I went, are feeling very keenly about the proposal of Government to levy a surcharge on land revenue when we are in the grip of famine. I know representations have been made to the Government by all those who have been affected by the new taxation proposals. I am quite confident that these representations will be fully dealt with and whatever might be the final shape in which the taxation proposals will come up, I hope, they would not very badly affect the agriculturists and others concerned. I feel that the taxation structure of the State as well as the taxable capacity of the people should be fully examined by a Committee of Experts and, once we decide to levy certain taxes, we should not, at any rate, levy more taxes for a period of five years. All our development plans are for five years and the normal tenure of the Ministry is also five years. I think, if such an arrangement or a convention as I stated now could be established, it would be possible for trade, industry and agriculture to carry on their normal avocations with a sense of financial security without the sword of new taxation heavily hanging over them every year with the 'Ides of March'. I am glad the Hon. the Minister for Finance has assured this House that he has taken up the question of retrenchment of Government establishments. I entirely endorse what the hon. Member, Sri V. Bhashyam Ayyangar, told us the other day about these retrenchment schemes. There is every possibility and scope for retrenchment of officers and staff in the different departments and I am glad that the Hon. Finance Minister has taken up the question. I would also urge that our Hon. the Chief Minister should take up the question of rational redistribution of the Secretariat Departments and re-orientation of Secretariat Procedure and do his best to revise the present systems of office administration.

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p.m.

" It is a matter for great regret that there is enormous delay in all Departments in the disposal of official business. Only the other day, I told the Hon. Minister for Agriculture about the great delay in giving agricultural loans for purchase of bulls, etc. Even in these matters of vital importance to the ryots, there is delay. If such loans are granted in time, before agricultural operations begin, they would certainly serve the purpose. But as it is there is inexplicable delay. The present office systems should change. Red tape should yield its place to Tri-colour Tape

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symbolizing efficiency, purity of administration and spirit of public service. The officers should forget their old ways of officialdom. They should take personal interest in their work and prove themselves true servants of a Democratic State. Personal attention and disposal on the spot by responsible officers would quicken the wheels of Public Administration and I wish the Government to issue necessary instructions to Heads of Departments to revitalize the services in the new spirit of service to the public. I would also propose a Training Class for officials or a Departmental Test in Democracy before promotion to responsible positions. Sir, the Hon. Minister for Public Health has been kind enough to compliment me on my knowledge of the departmental rules. Yes, I know perfectly well that the District Collectors and other District Officers and others including Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries to Government used to be normally transferred once in three years. That is a wholesome rule. The officers if kept on in one place for a very long time become stale and lose all interest in their work and at times are subject to local prejudice. I would request the Hon. the Chief Minister to consider these aspects and lay down clear rules in the best interests of the Administration. I would also propose transfer of Secretariat Officials to Presidency Offices and transfer of officials of Presidency Offices to District Offices and vice versa. The reasons for such a proposal are not far to seek. The average Secretariat Official or Presidency Official has no practical knowledge of the working of the Department he has to deal with.

“ Sir, it is a well-established principle that non-officials ought not to interfere with the officials in their day-to-day administration, in judicial proceedings and discretionary matters like appointments, transfers and promotions and punishments. But that does not mean that the non-officials have no place in public administration. Certainly the non-officials and the Legislators particularly ought to take the keenest interest in the administration and bring to the notice of the officials the needs of the public, cases of delay or hardship, etc. The official who feels he will be liable to be affected or influenced by such non-official contacts is not fit for a Democratic State. He should hear all and act according to his judgment and it is on the basis of such healthy co-operation between the official and the non-official that real progress can be achieved.

“ The problem of Local Administration needs special attention. The powers of the Local Bodies have been taken away systematically during the last decade especially during the Advisers' regime. The Local Bodies ask for greater powers just to enable them to render efficient service to the public and not to display local *Bahadurism*. The statutory rules need immediate revision. No democratic institution could function and render any useful service under the present restrictions. Having been a Municipal Commissioner myself, I could refer to innumerable instances

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to show the utter helplessness of the local bodies. The qualifications for all posts under Local Bodies have been prescribed and still the district boards and municipal councils should obtain the concurrence of the Heads of Departments and Officers below, before any appointment can be made. The tender rules are galling. The supply of petrol and kerosene oil, though their prices are fixed, if done without inviting tenders, would require the sanction of Government. The Municipal Councils maintain costly Engineering establishments and yet a single tap or a stand-pipe could not be opened even according to the sanctioned Key Scheme without the prior approval of the Sanitary Engineer and this would take more than a year and the summer would have been spent with the curses of the public on the Municipal Administration and the Government. The Hon. Minister for Health has suggested the other day that the maintenance of the water-supply and drainage works in the municipalities should be transferred to a Central Agency under the Sanitary Engineer. The Local Bodies would eventually become collecting agencies for local taxes and would be there merely to accord sanction to the expenditure incurred by the Executive Officers and the Central Agencies. I trust that is not the intention of the Government and that the revision of the rules would be taken up immediately and the Local Bodies would be made the true training ground for State Democracy. Just now with reference to a question, the Hon. Minister for Local Administration stated that the report of the Rathnasabapathy Mudaliyar Committee is still under correspondence with the Heads of Departments. I do not know why this report should be referred to the Heads of Departments. The policy of the Government in such important matters has to be settled by the Ministry. If it is left to the officials to offer their views on the recommendations of the Expert Committee of Municipal representatives, I do not know when the report will come up. If our Chief Minister had thought of referring his de-control policy to the officials, it would have taken ten more years for de-control to have materialized. The policies of the Government have to be settled by the Ministry and the Heads of Departments are there to carry out the policies of the Government. I hope that there would be no more delay in this matter and that the Committee's report will be taken up by the Government as early as possible.

“Society has progressed and reforms in tune with the progress of the times should be introduced. I would plead for transfer of substantial powers to Municipal Chairmen to administer the towns, assisted by local committees. On account of the disparity in the scale of pay of Local Boards services, as compared with Government officials, the local bodies could not get proper men to take up service under local bodies. The scales of pay for different grades of services under local bodies should be made attractive and I would also suggest the appointment of a Service Commission for selecting the Local Board and Municipal staff.

“Sir, the amendment of the Madras City Municipal Act has been pending for a long time. The question was referred to the

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Corporation Council and I know, the Corporation has sent up its recommendations to Government. I do not know in what stage the matter is. I request the Government to take up the matter and see that substantial powers are given to the Mayor and also power is given to the Corporation to appoint its Commissioner. I do not see any reason why a non-official should not be appointed as Commissioner of the City Corporation. We have appointed non-officials as Community Project Executive Officers and this procedure could be followed with regard to the appointment of the Commissioner of the Corporation.

“The Madras Public Health Act was passed as early as 1939. In the actual working of the Act several difficulties have been felt. The district boards and municipalities have been representing to the Government that these difficulties should be removed by suitably amending the Act. The Government have repeatedly stated that amendments to the Madras Public Health Act are under consideration. I trust that this matter which has been pending with the Government for the last two or three years will be taken up soon and that comprehensive legislation to amend the Madras Public Health Act will be introduced.

“We find from the Public Works Budget that there is drastic cut in the allotment for works in all branches this year. I hope, Sir, that as a result of the cut in expenditure on works, temporary establishments in the Public Works Department, including the Electricity and the Sanitary Engineering Departments, would be considerably reduced. I am sure this aspect of the question has not escaped the attention of the Hon. Minister for Finance and that the axe would be applied for reduction of staff in all such cases of cut in expenditure on works. 6 p.m.

“The Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour told us that the question of fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labour and also whether they are to be in cash or in kind is engaging the attention of Government. The question is far deeper than that. The time has come when the actual tiller of the soil should no longer be treated on the basis of a mere wage-earner, but he should have his legitimate share in the harvest of the land. I trust these aspects will be taken due note of in connection with the land reforms under contemplation.

“I need hardly tell the Hon. Members about the problem of agricultural indebtedness in the country and the lack of credit facilities for ryots. This needs urgent remedy. I hope it would be possible to establish State Agricultural Banks in important centres.

“The administration of the Motor Vehicles Act needs much reform. It was stated recently that in view of the increased demand for transport facilities new bus routes will be opened and that more buses will be permitted. This is a welcome move in the development of rural transport, but not much headway has

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been made so far. The procedure for grant of stage carriage permits is tardy and should be simplified. The rules are elastic. The decisions of the Regional Transport Authority are challenged before the Central Road Traffic Board and then the matter goes up to Government and to the High Court. It takes a year or two before finality is reached. Under Article 226 of the Constitution, the High Court is competent to call for records of all cases and issue directions in the nature of writ of certiorari. The High Court has held that the right to carry on Bus Transport business is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution and that denial of permits should be based on valid grounds. It is necessary that the Government should take up the question and lay down definite rules for the guidance of the Transport Authorities in the light of the High Court rulings. After the expansion of the jurisdiction of the High Court, Government need not have any powers under section 64 (A) of the Act. Straight from the Central Road Traffic Board, the aggrieved party may go to the Court and the Government need not come into the picture.

“With regard to irrigation schemes, it has been said that in the northern districts served by the waters from the Krishna, 5 to 26 per cent of lands was under irrigation while in the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput the percentage is as high as 35 and 61 per cent respectively and therefore, there is no justification for irrigation schemes in these southern districts. I emphatically protest against this statement and I should like to point out that in Chingleput and North Arcot districts the only sources of water-supply are the wells and tanks depending on seasonal rains and there are no big irrigation schemes. There seems to be no justification why territorial consideration should be brought into this problem of vital necessity for one and all. Whatever might have been the circumstances under which such arguments have been put forward, it is a patent fact that on account of the failure of monsoon there have been large remissions of land revenue in these districts during the last three or four years, and complete remissions in certain areas. That only shows how very necessary it is that we should have some irrigation projects to benefit these districts also.

“A large number of temporary clerks and peons would be ousted on account of de-control measures. These should be absorbed in Government service in other departments and in local board and municipal services as vacancies occur. The Public Service Commission should be instructed to defer holding of the examination for recruitment of clerks till all the temporary hands are absorbed. It should be possible too to draft some of them for working the New Schemes and administration of the new taxes.

“Free Educational concessions up to certain stage have been granted to Government servants and they are grateful for it but I am afraid this indirect relief is not quite adequate. An enhancement

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of dearness allowance at least in the case of the lower grade staff though not to the extent granted to the Central Services, should be sanctioned immediately even if it should be by cutting down the dearness allowance given to the higher paid staff. I am sure this question will receive the very earnest and sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Hon. the Chief Minister.

"Then there is the question of seniority in the matter of promotion in Government Service. The Hon. the Minister for Health told the House the other day that seniority will be considered only after merit and efficiency are weighed in the balance. I wish to submit, Sir, that when an official comes to the topmost ranks in the Service it is only fair and reasonable that his claims for promotion to higher posts should be favourably considered. Unless there is something really very bad in the records, I would plead that in all cases of promotions in Government Service seniority should be considered especially in the matter of higher appointments.

"On a perusal of the Public Service Commission's Annual Report for 1950-51 it is seen that there were 865 cases in which the Statutory Rules relating to Public Servants were relaxed by Government in that year. Relaxation of rules implies or rather savours of individual preferment and should be applied rarely in really hard cases requiring special treatment. I trust the relaxation of rules will be resorted to only in exceptional cases.

"The question of enhancing the age of retirement of Government Servants from 55 to 58 or 60 has also been under consideration by the Government. I request the Hon. the Chief Minister to see what can be done in this matter. I suggest that at least technical men, engineers, medical men, shorthand writers and typists should be allowed to continue beyond 55 because we are having a shortage of qualified men in these categories. If they are kept on till at least they attain 58 years of age, I am sure Government would not be losers thereby.

"Hon. members may be aware that the question of commutation of pension of Government servants received the attention of the Congress Ministry and the Hon. Chief Minister at the time Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, abolished the system of commutation because there was temptation on the part of pensioners to commute a major portion of their pensions and suffer later with the paltry pension left till the end of their lives. During the 'Advisers' regime, these orders were cancelled. I hope in the interests of the Government servants it would be desirable to restrict the proportion of pension to be commuted to one-fourth or one-third of the pension.

"Some time ago, it was stated I believe in the Raja Ministry that illiterate and unqualified persons would not be entertained as peons in Government Service. In this connection, the practice of employing private servants under the guise of house peons and

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at the expense of Government should be discouraged, nay, condemned and the dignity of Public Service in all grades should be maintained.

"Sir, before I close, I should like to submit, that we, as Members of the House of Elders, apart from party alignments, should strive to establish healthy conventions and through our lofty debates and constructive criticisms build up the Welfare State which we all wish for."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, the members of the teaching profession have to view with great disappointment the Budget proposals. The teachers were eagerly expecting that something tangible would be done by this Ministry at least by way of enhancement of their salaries. It may be argued by Hon. Minister in charge of the Exchequer that a rupee per teacher would cost Rs. 12 lakhs for the State. I wish to ask him in that connexion which mother, especially an Indian mother with six or seven children has been heard to say that even if it is handful of rice for a child it would take two or three measures and she could not procure it and feed her famished children.

6-10
P.M.

"Sir, it has been, again and again impressed upon the Government that teachers are not only famished but are dying inch by inch. The gravity of the situation has not been realized by the Government, on account of the fact that the 130,000 families of teachers are scattered in the various parts of the State. Of course, the teachers have been the dumb millions of the country and that has been their fault. There was an agitation in the year 1947 which brought them something but there was the question, at the same time, why the teachers followed the non-gazetted officers (which was not the case) and why they did not ask for higher salaries when the British were here. Because we have got Swaraj and because the real Mother has come to feed us intellectually and physically, we the teachers, of 1,30,000 families have got the privilege of asking our Mother. It is the duty of the Mother to see that the famished children are brought to their normal physical stature.

"Now, Members of this House may be astounded to hear that an ordinary matriculate who enters a clerical profession gets Rs. 55 per mensem. Whereas matriculate after two years of training is entitled to Rs. 40 per mensem for 220 days of work and Rs. 45 per mensem for 180 days of work. The teacher in a high school works for 180 days and gets Rs. 45, Rs. 10 less than what a clerk gets. The teacher in an elementary school who works for 220 days gets only Rs. 40, Rs. 5 less than what a teacher in a high school gets. Can there be greater injustice than this? Is this injustice done to the members of any other profession? Is a teacher to be punished with a fine of Rs. 15 for having undergone a technical course? Is this the punishment to be meted out to a person who is given the task of moulding the nation and creating the patriotism necessary to guard the hardwon freedom?

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“Now, I come to secondary grade teachers. Arguments may be brought forward that there are people rushing to the training schools and they are not going to the clerical sphere and, after all, it is a man's lot that makes him a teacher or a clerk. But, again, why should there be that inequality of pay for the same qualification and for doing the same work? I find in this Budget that no provision has been made to equalize the pay of a secondary grade teacher in an elementary school with the pay of a secondary grade teacher in a high school.

“Sir, I find there is no provision for house rent allowance in the case of a particular category of teachers. I mean the teachers in aided schools. When other teachers are drawing that allowance, when teachers under Government service and municipal service are drawing that allowance, the teachers in aided schools alone are not allowed to draw the house rent allowance, not to speak of the fact that the non-gazetted officers and teachers in Government service are entitled to get the pay recommended by the Central Pay Commission from this Government. Has the house become cheaper for a teacher in an aided school? Here is a difference which presumes that a teacher in an aided school gets a house cheaper than a teacher in a municipal school. After all, it would cost merely some thousands of rupees, not even lakhs of rupees. The teachers, through their Unions have been impressing upon the Government to abolish this distinction. That has not been done even by this Government. If that is done, at least the Government can show that they have got goodwill towards the teachers and that they have just started to improve the teachers' status. Therefore, all teachers with similar qualifications should be given the same scales of salary and such scales as are given to persons with similar qualifications in other departments of Government.

“I now come to Hindi teachers. There has been a Government Order stating that Hindi should be taught only for two periods. At the same time there has been another Government Order stating that if only a teacher handles a particular number of periods, he would be entitled to the First Grade. Now, that Government Order states that the teacher should handle a sufficient number of periods to make him eligible for that salary. The school management says that there is no provision in the school for such a large number of periods to be set apart for Hindi according to the syllabus devised by the Education Department of the Government. Therefore, the Government have to come to the rescue of the Hindi teachers and see that necessary action is taken in the matter.

“Now, with regard to old-age provision, hon. Members of this House will be startled to hear that there is no old age provision for a teacher and he is left in the streets after working for a number of years. We were pleased to hear the announcement of the Hon. Minister for Finance that there is going to be

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a Provident Fund-Cum-Insurance Scheme for teachers in primary schools. Let this scheme not be confined to teachers in primary schools alone. It should be extended to other teachers as well. Sir, the teacher is often made to feel that he had sinned for having entered this profession of moulding the nation. Even the driver of a bullock cart who drives the bullocks away in their old age in the streets after getting full work from them in their young age and building his thatched house into a big storeyed house is blamed by the people, but the teacher is left in the streets by people whose duty it is to care for him. In this Budget we find that nearly an amount of Rs. 2 crores has been provided towards pensions. The Government have not cared to do something for the teacher. The Government leave him in the streets and call him, 'quasi-Government servant or a servant under private management'. If, in the year of our Lord, 1952, after five years of Swaraj the teacher's position is not recognized and he is not entitled to some old age provision after having worked for 30 or 40 years and shedding his blood for the cause of the nation, when is it going to be recognized? I request the hon. Members of this House to see that some old age provision is made for teachers also, at least from this year. I would beg of the Hon. Chief Minister, our Rajaji, to do some magic work with his pen, similar to the work which makes everyone in the State, when sitting at his meals in his house, a hotel or a marriage feast, feel that the rightful food denied to him so far has been now given to his belly-full, and make the teacher feel that, after 30 or 40 years of useful service to the nation, he has been given something as old age pension as is given to Government servants.

"Sir, it may be argued that funds are wanting and that the sympathies of the Government are with the teachers. As suggested by some hon. Members of this House including myself, various items of expenditure can be cut short. Sir, I also endorse the suggestion made by an hon. Member of this House this evening that many superfluous posts may be abolished. There is no urgency for cement concreting of roads and they can wait. But teachers cannot wait. If this Ministry does not solve the teachers' problems a day will come when posterity will say that even an able Ministry, as the present one, in the year 1952 did not care for teachers. Above all they will have to walk by the side of cemeteries of teachers, where it would be written, as in the Cenotaph, 'that the teachers in the year 1952 were left in the streets without any old age pension, etc., and that so many of them had to die unhonoured, unwept and unsung, even when an able Ministry was in charge of the Government.'

6-20
P.M.

"Now, Sir, free education has been given to the children of teachers; and there has been much confusion of thought in the case of aided schools, because it is thought that children of clerks and peons in the aided agencies will not be eligible for this concession. I hope the Hon. Chief Minister will clarify the position. The other day he said that the policemen would be entitled to

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this concession and also the peons in Government offices. Similarly I hope Government will issue an order clarifying the position declaring that all people including clerks and peons whether they are in aided schools or otherwise would be entitled to have their sons and daughters freely educated.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to labour school teachers, for a long time past only fifty per cent of the teachers had been confirmed. Now nearly 75 per cent of them are confirmed. I have got a concrete case on hand where pension was denied to a labour school teacher because he was confirmed in the 20th year of his service, that is, one year before he retired. The District Labour Officer ruled out his pension claim on the ground that he had put in only one year of service after confirmation, and so he was declared not eligible for pension. Sir, he is a Harijan teacher. He came to me in person and represented his case and requested me to bring this matter up before the Government and this House. He is now 55 years old. He has put in more than 20 years of service as a teacher; he is a Harijan teacher; and he has been denied his pension on the ground that after confirmation he had put in only one year's service. Though he has put in more than 19 years of service as a temporary teacher and that continuously, he has been denied a pension on the ground that the Government Order on the subject contemplates only service after confirmation for pension eligibility. Sir, it is on this ground that the District Labour Officer has denied him a pension. So I would just beg of the Government and the Hon. Education Minister in particular to see that irrespective of confirmation—for that is a separate matter by itself—when once a man has put in continuous service, say for ten years, if the record sheets show that he has put in such a service, whether it be temporary or otherwise, and irrespective of the fact whether it is after confirmation or not, he should be made eligible for pension. So I would request our Chief Minister, our revered Rajaji, to look into this matter—putting aside for the moment all other considerations—and declare that a man may be made eligible for pension irrespective of the fact when he is confirmed.

“ Then, Sir, turning to the kind of education to be imparted in our schools, I realise that it is not possible for Government to spend on Education any amount over 12 crores out of a revenue of 60 crores. But at the same time I would request Government to effect savings. I would suggest that in adult education the present old fashioned method is given up. I want that it should be done through the medium of the radio. I know radio is a Union subject. I want the Government to move the Central Government in this matter, and I want that the radio should be completely used for adult education instead of the present old fashioned method. Then, Sir, something should be done to the teacher, something tangible to him, so that he may feel that he is engaged in a long range policy of shaping the character of the future citizen of our country and thus doing a good service

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to our nation. I hope Government will remove the glaring defects in the teacher's profession I have already pointed out, by starting the teacher on a higher scale of pay according to his qualifications, so that he may be proud of his profession and feel that the Government is there to give him something, that it is there to push up his salary to the level of the members of other professions, that it is there to give him the benefit of old age pension and that Government have at last begun to see that education, irrespective of the agencies, should be the first charge on the revenues of the Government. If our revered Rajaji begins to do all these things and makes a token provision at least as a beginning this year, if he extends the educational fee concession to the children of all employees including peons, if he removes the glaring defects in the salary of teachers (which I have already pointed out), if he grants house rent allowance to the particular class of teachers to whom it is now denied simply because they are now serving in a particular kind of aided agency and if he tries to give a good enhancement in their salary, I think, it will go a long way to produce satisfaction among the teachers.

“ Sir, I see that a loan of five crores is to be floated for capital expenditure. I ask, ‘ Is not Education a capital expenditure? ’ Dams and canals may look big, imposing and pleasing to the eye. They may fulfil the needs of the people in a particular area, but education will produce results in all regions and among all people. It is a capital investment which will never fade, for dams may crack if left uncared for and channels require to be looked after periodically, but education, though intangible, will have a lasting benefit and its benefits will pass on from generation to generation. It will build up and aid the cultural heritage of our nation. If this Ministry begins to treat education as a capital expenditure and invest one crore of rupees out of the five crores of rupees to be got as loan from the public, it will be a sum well spent and I am sure no member of the public will oppose this as it is to the benefit of the nation. Education builds up character; education builds up integrity. However big the dam may be, however much water we may store, it is the human factor that makes it useful to the people, that allow the water to the people. The teacher trains the mind of the citizen of the country with noble ideas and aspirations and makes him not to fall a prey to bribery and corruption. It is such a kind of person who is going to make these dams, these water storages, these electricity undertakings really useful to the people. It is that honesty and integrity of character that is going to make a man feel, the higher and higher the salary he draws, the more and more he is the servant of the people. So I request our revered Rajaji at least in the year of Grace 1952 to see that the teacher is made to work in calm and peace in his school devoting himself wholeheartedly to his work, undisturbed as to how he should provide himself for the morrow, not being worried as to what his children would do for food the following day and where he should seek a fresh job after retirement. It will be a boon to the teacher if

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this is done. Funds for that may be got if only there is the will to do this thing for the teacher. It is the will to improve the lot of the humble teacher that is required. Then the funds may be got from somewhere. So I pay my humble respects to Rajaji and request him once again to see that some tangible good is done to the teachers. I thank you, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 4 p.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned.

VI.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

The Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1952 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1952) as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

